

U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/821,007
Amendment dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2004

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.:586-22-PA

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed July 6, 2004.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 were examined. Claims 1, 4-8, 13, and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by US 6,690,947 - Tom. Claims 2-3 and 14-15 were objected to as being dependent from rejected base claims, but were held to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9-12 were allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 2, and claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 14, thereby presenting the allowable subject matter of claims 1 and 14 in independent form. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled as superfluous.

Claims 3 and 15 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 13, respectively.

Claim 9, which was allowed, has been amended only to make sure that each limitation has a proper antecedent basis. There is no intention to narrow the scope of the claim, nor does the claim, in fact, appear to be narrower as a result of the amendment. Claims 10 and 12 have been amended solely to make their terminology consistent with claim 9, from which they depend, while claim 11 has been amended solely to correct an obvious spelling mistake. Again, any narrowing of these dependent claims is neither intended nor apparent.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-13, and 15-20, as amended, are allowable. Passage of the application to issue is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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